

FORM PTO-1390
(REV-11-98)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

Mo-5884/LeA 32,873

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/646450

To be Assigned

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP99/01537INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
03 March 1999 (3.03.99)PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
18 March 1998 (18.03.98)

TITLE OF INVENTION

SOOT GRANULES

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Gunter Linde; Uwe Hempelmann, Manfred Eitel

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(I).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information: Preliminary Amendment w/Abstract;
PTO Form 1449 and references listed therein



U.S. APPLICATION NO. (37 CFR 1.51)

To be Assigned

09/640450

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP99/01537

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

Mo-5884/LeA 32,873

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5))**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$970.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$760.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$670.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$96.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**CALCULATIONS** PTO USE ONLY

\$ 840.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(c)).

\$

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	15 -20 =	0	X \$18.00
Independent claims	2 -3 =	0	X \$78.00

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)

+\$260.00

\$

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 840.00

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement
must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

\$ 0.00

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 840.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 840.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +

\$ 40.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 880.00

Amount to be:
refunded

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\$

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 13-3848 in the amount of \$880.00 to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3848. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Thomas W. Roy
Bayer Corporation
Patent Department
100 Bayer Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205-9741
USA



00157

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Thomas W. Roy
SIGNATURE

Thomas W. Roy

NAME

29,582

REGISTRATION NUMBER

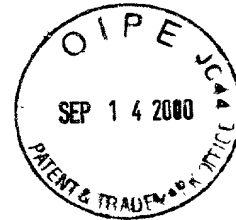
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430 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 4 SEP 2000

PATENT APPLICATION
Mo5884
LeA 32,873

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF)
GÜNTER LINDE ET AL) PCT/EP 99/01537
SERIAL NUMBER: TO BE ASSIGNED)
FILED: HEREWITH)
TITLE: SOOT GRANULES)



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

Prior to the examination of the subject application, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 1, and the Abstract page, change the title to read --SOOT GRANULES--.

At page 1, line 2 insert the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

At page 3, line 1 insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

At page 3, line 8 insert the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1- 19.



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Donna J. Veatch

(Name of person mailing paper or fee)

[Signature]
Signature of person mailing paper or fee)



Kindly add the following Claims 20-34:

--20. Compacted carbon black pellets having a relative color intensity, based on the uncompacted powder, of greater than 100%.

21. The pellets of Claim 20 wherein the pellets have an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

22. The pellets of Claim 20 wherein the pellets comprise one or more binders and/or dispersants in a total quantity of 0.1 to 25 wt.%, based on the weight of the pellets.

23. The pellets of Claim 22 wherein the binder comprises a liquid polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt or molasses.

24. The pellets of Claim 22 wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate or a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

25. A process for the production of carbon black pellets which comprises compacting carbon black in the presence of an auxiliary substance and comminuting it to pellets having an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

26. The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compaction two or more times.

27. The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compaction two or more times at different compressive forces in each compaction stage.

28. The process of Claim 25 comprising using compression forces of between 1 and 100 kN/cm.

29. The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compactation by screws, rollers, die presses or extruders.

30. The process of Claim 25 wherein the auxiliary substance is one or more binders and/or dispersants used in total quantity of 0.1 to 25 wt.%, based on the weight of the pellet.

31. The process of Claim 30, wherein the binder comprises a liquid polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt or molasses.

32. The process of Claim 30 wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate and a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

33. The process of Claim 25 comprising coating the resulting pellets with a thin layer of wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.

34. The process of Claim 33 comprising adding a preservative and/or fragrance to the wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled and replaced by Claims 20-34. These claims are supported by the original claims.

An early action of the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GÜNTER LINDE
UWE HEMPELMANN
MANFRED EITEL

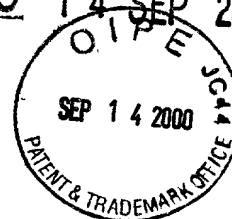


By Thomas W. Roy
Thomas W. Roy
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,582

Bayer Corporation
100 Bayer Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741
(412) 777-2345
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:
(412) 777-5449
/vjt/DP0095

14 SEP 2000

- 1 -

Carbon black pellets

This invention relates to a process for the production of compacted carbon black pellets for various applications.

5

By virtue of their small particle size of 0.01 μm to 20 μm , colouring materials are known to have a strong tendency to dust and to be very difficult to dispense due to the strong adhesive forces between the particles. This is overcome by pelletising these powders before use. However, pelletisation often also results in a reduction in dispersibility as the stability of the pellets is usually increased by binders in order to improve transport characteristics. As a result, pigment pellets frequently exhibit lower initial colour intensity, such that, for a given dispersing time, the pellets develop a less intense colour than when colouring with powders. The desired advantages of absence of dust and good dispensability have thus resulted in considerable efforts to obtain readily dispersible pellets for pigments too.

15

This applies in particular to carbon blacks which, due to the small particle size and low bulk density thereof, have always previously undergone compaction as dry powders by "degassing" between vacuum rollers or by "beading" in rotating drums. However, compaction between rollers does not yield pellets and dry pulverisation results in agglomeration of the flocculent carbon black into large spherules of up to a few millimetres in diameter. In wet beading, the carbon blacks are pelletised in beading machines using water and possibly binders and then dried. The production of carbon black pellets is described in *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry*, fifth edition, volume A 5, page 148.

20

25

US-A 4 946 505 describes the production of carbon black and pigment pellets for colouring concrete which are obtained by spray pelletisation. The disadvantage of spray pelletisation is that it is necessary to prepare an aqueous slurry of carbon black

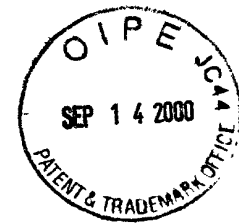
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and vaporisation of the water entails considerable drying costs. US-A 4 946 505 explicitly excludes compaction and briquetting processes.

DE-A 43 36 548 and DE-A 43 45 168 describe carbon black pellets which are
5 produced with the addition of considerable quantities of water by means of an annular die press, subsequent rounding and drying. The resultant pellets contain less than 1% binder.

EP-A 0 370 490 describes carbon black flakes for printing inks which are produced
10 by compacting carbon black under a low pressure. The material still contains dusting fractions. It is explained that dispersibility suffers if elevated pressure is used.

EP-A-0 802 241 discloses carbon black pellets which have a relative colour intensity
15 relative to the powder on which they are based of at most 100%.

The processes hitherto available either do not yield a satisfactory material or are unfavourable in energy terms due to post-drying.

The object thus arose of providing carbon black pellets which combine mechanical
20 stability with elevated colour intensity as well as a technically simple, low cost process which yields readily dispersible, low dusting carbon black pellets which are stable in transport.

This object is achieved by the carbon black pellets according to the invention: the
25 carbon black powder is compacted to such an extent with the addition of auxiliary substances and subsequently pelletised that the quotient of pycnometric density and bulk density is between 3.0 and 10, preferably between 3.5 and 8. Despite the compaction, the resultant pellets surprisingly exhibit greater colour intensity than the powders on which they are based.

The present invention accordingly also provides a process for the production of carbon black pellets, in which carbon blacks are compacted with auxiliary substances, in a preferred embodiment twice or more, and comminuted to yield pellets, wherein the pellets generally have an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm, preferably of 0.5 to 1.0 mm. The quotient of pycnometric density and bulk density of the pellets obtained according to the invention is between 3.0 and 10, preferably between 3.5 and 8.

Compressive forces preferably of between 1 and 100 kN/cm, particularly preferably of between 10 and 30 kN/cm, are used in the compacting stages. The compressive forces may be identical in all the compacting stages, but preferably differ. The product thickness achievable with these compaction units is preferably 1 to 5 mm, in particular 1 to 3 mm. Suitable compaction units are, for example, screws, rollers, die presses, extruders with or without evacuation apparatus.

The pelletisation proceeding after the compaction stages is preferably performed by screen pelletisation. In this case, the fines fraction may be directly separated by screening and recirculated.

It may also be advantageous to increase the size of the fines fraction by pelletisation in a subsequent stage, preferably, for example, by post-rolling on a rotary table or in a rotating drum.

Adding liquid auxiliary substances increases throughput and pressure under given compaction conditions, such that the resultant pellets become stronger.

Particle size distribution measurements show that the use of higher compressive forces clearly results in a breakdown of the carbon black structures. It has accordingly been observed that the pellets produced according to the invention exhibit a greater colour intensity than the corresponding powder mixtures. The

application of relatively high pressures and/or repeated compaction also results in greater pellet stability and surprisingly according to the invention simultaneously greater colour intensity.

- 5 The particle sizes of the pellets are not essential to the invention; they are generally from 0.3 to 2 mm, preferably from 0.5 to 1.0 mm. The quotient of pycnometric density and bulk density is between 3.0 and 10, preferably between 3.5 and 8.

- 10 One or more binders and/or dispersants are used as auxiliary substances. The auxiliary substances may be solid or liquid. It is preferred to use liquid binders from the group comprising polyols, polyethers, polyesters, oils, water and aqueous solutions of polymeric salts or molasses. A dispersant from the group comprising lignin sulfonates and naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation products is also preferred.

- 15 The total quantity of auxiliary substances is usually 0.1 wt.% to 25 wt.%, preferably 1 to 20 wt.% and particularly preferably 3 to 15 wt.%.

- 20 The stability of the resultant pellets may subsequently be increased in a further stage by coating them with a thin layer of a material from the group comprising waxes, polyethers, polyesters, polyolefins and polyvinyl alcohols. Preservatives and/or fragrances may additionally be added.

- 25 The process according to the invention not only yields free-flowing pellets, but the relative colour intensity in concrete is higher than would be expected on the basis of the quantity of starting material used in powder form.

- 30 The carbon black pellets according to the invention are thus particularly suitable for colouring substrates, in particular concrete, asphalt, plastics, as well as paints and lacquers.

Method for assessing the dispersibility of pellets in building materials

Dispersibility in cement mortar (colour intensity in mortar prisms) of the pellets is determined relative to the powder standard.

5

Equipment:

Toni mixer with electronic control

Mixing container (from Toni-Technik)

Colorimeter (Minolta CR 310); illuminant C; 0° diffuse with gloss, 8 cm
illumination aperture

10

Mortar formulation:

1200 g 0.2-1 mm quartz sand

600 g 1-2 mm quartz sand

200 g limestone flour (5 wt.% screening residue on 90 µm screen)

500 g white cement (Dyckerhoff)

175 g water (water/cement ratio = 0.35)

6 g pigment pellets

15

20 Method:

All the mix components are introduced into the mixing container initially without water and premixed while dry. Water and then cement are subsequently added and the mix stirred for 100 seconds.

25

This mix is placed in a steel die and compression moulded at approx. 300 bar. Directly after compression, the colour of the moist moulding is measured while still in the mould by applying the colorimeter. Measurement is made at four points on the moulding.

30

Evaluation:

The above-stated method is performed with both the pellet test piece and with the associated powder standard as reference.

The relative colour intensity of the specimens is determined to DIN 55986/A using colour intensity criterion Y.

Particle size was determined on pellets using a Malvern® Mastersizer S.

Measurement of particle size with Malvern Mastersizer S

Two different methods, which differed with regard to the intensity of the dispersion process, were used for the dispersion of the substances under investigation. Elevated dispersion energy was achieved by using an ultrasound sonotrode with an input power of 200 W. A ®Labsonic U model ultrasound sonotrode from B. Braun Diessel Biotec was used. 500 mg of the material mixed with the stated quantity of dispersants and additives per 50 ml of distilled water were dispersed for 2 minutes using the ultrasound sonotrode. A setting of an input power of 200 W is used, with the sonotrode impulse controller being set to 0.5. Beaker-type containers having a diameter of approx. 45 mm and a height of 55 mm are used. The sonotrode is immersed approx. 2 cm into the suspension, with care being taken to ensure that the distance from the container walls is as uniform as possible. The entire suspension is introduced into the measurement chamber of the instrument and stirred and pumped at 50% of maximum power during the measurement. An alternative method of achieving low dispersion energies is to use the measuring instrument's internal ultrasound chamber. In this case, 50 mg of the substance under investigation, optionally also together with the stated additives, are placed into the instrument's ultrasound chamber, which is full of distilled water. Ultrasound power is set to 70%; the duration of dispersion is 2 minutes; the other settings remain unchanged. The

values stated are the mean of the distribution by volume (D[4.3]) and/or the 10, 50 and 90% percentile values of the distribution by volume (D[v,0.1], D[v,0.5] and D[v,0.9]).

5 Screen analysis using air jet screening machine

Equipment: 250 µm DIN VA screen (DIN-ISO 3310)

Air jet screening machine: Rhewum model LPS 200 MC (4 mm nozzle, 18 rpm, 35 m³/h air, screening time 1 minute)

10

Method: 20 g of the specimen to be analysed are placed on the screen and then screened with the screening machine.

Once screening is complete, the weight of the oversize is determined and the percentage fraction thereof relative to the initial weight calculated.

15

Draining behaviour:

Draining behaviour is determined to DIN 53 211 using a drain cup (100 ml volume, 6 mm drain nozzle).

20

The following Examples describe the invention without limiting it.

Test series 1

25

®Flammruß 101 (lampblack, commercial product of Degussa) was vigorously mixed in a plough bar mixer (from Lödige, Paderborn) with various quantities of polyethylene glycol ®PEG 400 (commercial product of EC-Dormagen) and ammonium lignin sulfonate (commercial product of Lignotec, Düsseldorf).

30

These mixtures were compacted in up to 3 compacting operations or also degassed in a vacuum press and compacted in a single stage using a model CS25 unit from Bepex, Leingarten.

- 5 The material was coarse-ground in a model MGI 314 coarse grinder from Frewitt with a 1.5 mm mesh screen and separated from the fines fraction using a model ®Conflux 323 µm mesh screen from Siebtechnik, Mühlheim. Table 1 below summarises the test conditions and results. Free-flowing, non-dusting, irregularly shaped pellets having an elevated relative colour intensity were obtained.

10

Test series 2

- Mixtures of Flammruß 101 were produced as in test series 1 with differing quantities of auxiliary substances, degassed in a vacuum press and compacted using compactor CS 25 and a precompaction screw with a strongly tapered section. Table 2 summarises the test conditions and results. Where auxiliary substances were used, stable pellets having improved relative colour intensity were obtained.

15

- As the quantity of auxiliary substances increases, not only do the compressive forces established increase after the compression operation, but so too do bulk density, yield, stability and relative colour intensity (Table 2).

20

Comparative Tests

- 25 At very low compressive forces or without auxiliary substances, bulk densities remain low, wherein yield and relative colour intensity are lower (Table 2).

Table 1

	Additive	Compressive force (kN/cm)	Bulk density (g/cm ³)	Relative colour intensity in concrete** (%)	Particle size distribution D(4.3) μ m	Pycnometric density/bulk density	Throughput (kg/h)
Powder			0.18		3.90	10.1	
Pellet, 1 st pass	2.5% PEG/2.5% ALS	5	0.25	93	-	7.1	43
Pellet, 2 nd pass	2.5% PEG/2.5% ALS	18	0.34	117	0.78	5.4	75
Pellet, 3 rd pass	2.5% PEG/2.5% ALS	24	0.40	126	0.66	4.6	92
Pellet, 1 st pass	10% PEG/2.5% ALS	9	0.33	113	-	5.5	53
Pellet, 2 nd pass	10% PEG/2.5% ALS	25	0.46	125	0.73	4.0	132
Pellet*	10% PEG/2.5% ALS	23	0.49	123	0.76	3.7	89
Pellet*	10% PEG/5% ALS	23	0.46	123	0.73	4.0	82

* previously degassed with @Vacupress

** measured against powder mixture

PEG = polyethylene glycol

ALS = ammonium lignin sulfonate

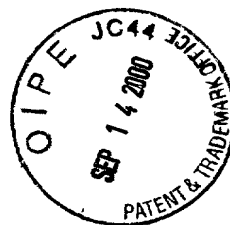


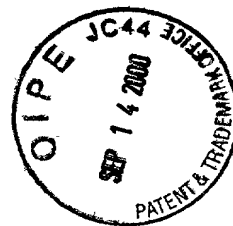
Table 2

	Additive composition	(%)	Compressive force (1) (kN/cm)	Throughput CS 25 (kg/h)	Bulk density (g/cm ³)	Pycnometric density/bulk density	Over-size (%)	Drain time (s)	Relative colour intensity in concrete (%)	Stability (2)	Particle size distribution D(4.3) μ m
Powder					0.18				100		3.90
Pellet 1	10% PEG/ 5% ALS	15	20	143	0.43	4.2	50.2	33	137	3	0.82
Pellet 2	6.7% PEG/ 3.3% ALS	10	16	133	0.38	4.8	45.3	34	143	3	0.77
Pellet 3	3.4% PEG/ 1.6% ALS	5	13	84	0.33	5.5	42.6	33	129	2	0.74
Pellet 4	2% PEG/ 1% ALS	3	9	70	0.29	6.2	47.0	33	116	1	0.98
Comparative test	no additives	0	3	approx. 10**	0.25	7.3	35.6	does not flow	103	0	3.67

** Product flowed very irregularly.

(1) = max. compressive force (after Vacupress) in 1 pass.

(2) = sensory test, values from 0-5 (0 = soft, 5 = hard).



Patent Claims

1. Process for the production of carbon black pellets, in which carbon blacks are compacted in the presence of auxiliary substances and comminuted to yield pellets, wherein the pellets have an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm, preferably of 0.5 to 1.0 mm, characterised in that the quotient of density and bulk density is between 3.0 and 10, preferably between 3.5 and 8.
2. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that compaction is performed twice or more.
3. Process according to claims 1 and 2, characterised in that one or more binders and/or dispersants are used as auxiliary substances in a total quantity of 0.1 to 25 wt.%, preferably of 1 to 20 wt.%, in particular of 3 to 15 wt.%.
4. Process according to claims 1 to 3, characterised in that a liquid binder is used from the group comprising polyols, polyethers, polyesters, oils, water and aqueous solutions of polymeric salts or molasses.
5. Process according to claims 1 to 3, characterised in that a dispersant is used from the group comprising lignin sulfonates and naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation products.
6. Process according to claims 1 to 5, characterised in that compressive forces of between 1 and 100 kN/cm, preferably of between 5 and 50 kN/cm, in particular of between 10 and 30 kN/cm are used.
7. Process according to claims 1 to 6, characterised in that compaction units are used in the form of screws, rollers, die presses or extruders.

8. Process according to claims 1 to 7, characterised in that compaction is performed in two or more compaction stages at differing compressive forces.
- 5 9. Process according to claim 8, characterised in that there are two compaction stages.
10. Process according to claims 1 to 9, characterised in that screening is performed as a subsequent stage.
- 10 11. Process according to claims 1 to 10, characterised in that the separated screen fractions are pelletised.
12. Process according to claims 1 to 11, characterised in that the resultant pellets are coated with a thin layer of a material from the group comprising waxes, polyethers, polyolefins and polyvinyl alcohols.
- 15 13. Process according to claims 1 to 12, characterised in that preservatives and/or fragrances are additionally added.
- 20 14. Compacted carbon black pellets having a relative colour intensity, relative to the powder on which they are based, of greater than 100%.
15. Carbon black pellets according to claim 14, characterised in that that they have an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm, preferably of 0.5 to 1.0 mm, and that the quotient of density and bulk density is between 3.0 and 10, preferably between 3.5 and 8.
- 25 16. Carbon black pellets according to claims 14 and 15, characterised in that they are obtained by compaction performed twice or more.

17. Carbon black pellets according to claims 14 to 16, characterised in that they contain one or more binders and/or dispersants as auxiliary substances in a total quantity of 0.1 to 25 wt.%, preferably of 1 to 20 wt.%, in particular of 3 to 15 wt.%.

5

18. Carbon black pellets according to claim 17, characterised in that the binder(s) comprise(s) a liquid substance from the group comprising polyols, polyethers, polyesters, oils, water and aqueous solutions of polymeric salts or molasses.

10

19. Carbon black pellets according to claim 17, characterised in that the dispersant comprises a substance from the group comprising lignin sulfonates and naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation products.

15

Carbon black pellets

A b s t r a c t

This invention relates to carbon black pellets obtained by compaction of carbon black powder in the presence of auxiliary substances, which pellets, despite the compaction, surprisingly exhibit greater colour intensity than the powders on which they are based.

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SOOT GRANULES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to carbon black pellets obtained by compaction of carbon black powder in the presence of auxiliary substances, which pellets, despite the compaction, surprisingly exhibit greater color intensity than the powders on which they are based.

[illegible]

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought

on the invention entitled

"SOOT GRANULES"

the specification of which is attached hereto,

or was filed on **March 10, 1999**

as a PCT Application Serial No. **PCT/EP99/01537**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s), the priority(ies) of which is/are to be claimed:

198 11 553.9
(Number)

Germany
(Country)

March 18, 1998
(Month/Day/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose the material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

JÖSEPH C. GIL, Patent Office Registration Number 26,602-
ARON PREIS, Patent Office Registration Number 29,426
LYNDANNE M. WHALEN, Patent Office Registration Number 29,457
THOMAS W. ROY, Patent Office Registration Number 29,582
RICHARD E. L. HENDERSON, Patent Office Registration Number 31,619
GODFRIED R. AKORLI, Patent Office Registration Number 28,779
N. DENISE BROWN, Patent Office Registration Number 36,097
NOLAND J. CHEUNG, Patent Office Registration Number 39,138
CAROL MARMO, Patent Office Registration Number 39,761
DIDERICO VAN EYL, Patent Office Registration Number 38,641



all of Bayer Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741

Send Correspondence To: <u>Patent Department</u> <u>Bayer Corporation</u> <u>100 Bayer Road</u> <u>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741</u>	Direct Telephone Calls To: (412) 777-2349
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FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR <u>Günter Linde</u>		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <u>Günter Linde</u>	DATE <u>8-9-2000</u>
RESIDENCE D 47800 <u>Krefeld</u> , Germany		CITIZENSHIP German	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS c/o BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, D 51368 Leverkusen, Germany			
FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR <u>Uwe Hempelmann</u>		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <u>Uwe Hempelmann</u>	DATE <u>8-14-2000</u>
RESIDENCE D 40670 <u>Meerbusch</u> , Germany		CITIZENSHIP German	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS c/o BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, D 51368 Leverkusen, Germany			
FULL NAME OF THIRD INVENTOR <u>Manfred Eitel</u>		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <u>Manfred Eitel</u>	DATE <u>8-14-2000</u>
RESIDENCE D 47906 <u>Kempen</u> , Germany		CITIZENSHIP German	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS c/o BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, D 51368 Leverkusen, Germany			
FULL NAME OF FOURTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SIXTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SEVENTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			